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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3028  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

VIA: AIR  
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO: 7123

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TO : Chief, Foreign Division H  
FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe *Chm*  
SUBJECT: GENERAL: Operational  
SPECIFIC: Plan V-12044(P) of GW C

DATE: 30 June 1951

REF : NHL-A-7124  
*Josef KURT MERK*

1. Contact with the prospective co-worker V-12044(P) was first made on 3 May 1951 by V-12044. The middle-man was the person listed by true name in para. 2 of NHL-A-6479. (See Case Officer's Comments, below.)

2. The CI check of V-12044(P) was begun on 5 May 1951. Because a man bearing the true name of V-12044(P) was listed in ZIPPER files as a suspected Czech agent (see attachment to NHL-A-6944), 39 sent GW C full particulars and asked that agency to check further. (Identity was proved by identical date of birth, place of birth, marital status, and address.) According to 39, V-12044(P) was suspected of having a connection with Josef KURT MERK (true name), himself a suspected Czech agent alleged to work for SMB Veeruby.

3. GW C replied that V-12044(P) had repeatedly disclaimed any knowledge of a Josef ALTMAN but admitted to V-12044 an association with SMB personnel in Veeruby. For this association V-12044(P) offered the following explanation:

a. In 1946 V-12044(P) was working for CIC Koestling, under CIC Furth i. Wald. His superior was the interpreter named in reference. V-12044(P) claims that at the suggestion of the American superior(s) of the interpreter he took up cooperation with an Americanist for SHADE (or SHADE) with the SMB in Neurath (Veeruby). V-12044(P) was given the assignment (he claims) of functioning as a courier between SHADE and the Americans.

b. V-12044(P) further claims that at the end of 1946 he was taken by CIC officers to meet the leader of an American IS office in London on the Isar. This American directed V-12044(P) to continue his work as courier and contact-man to SHADE. In 1949 V-12044(P) was directed by

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the same American to bring over the border and into Germany a Czech named Vladav Lavidka (true name). SWAIDR was to bring V-12044(P) to LAVIDKA. At the end of 1949 SWAIDR failed to appear for meetings with V-12044(P), who was accordingly forced to suspend his border-crossing activities. At the beginning of 1950 the American in charge of the London office told V-12044(P) to go to Moscow (Vozrudy) and make inquiries there of a Rosa Inn about the whereabouts of SWAIDR. V-12044(P) returned with the information that SWAIDR had been transferred to a post in the interior of the GDR but that all was well with him.

c. V-12044(P) states that all of his activities in the GDR were known to and directed by the Americans, so that now no accusations can properly be brought against him. He also states that in two cases the Americans intervened in court on his behalf.

d. In our tracing memo on V-12044(P) we shall ask GIB to check the veracity of the above statements.

5. Case Officer's Comments:

As MEM-4-6479 shows, we are concerned about the possibility that SEMER (the middle-man in both this plan and Plan V-12042(P), is also a Czech agent. OV C has not yet answered our query on this point. If our suspicions about SEMER, who has known V-12044(P) for years, should prove well-founded, OV C will discover that it has bitten into a particularly wormy apple.

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